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# EXTENSION PROJECTS IN RURAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

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## F O R E W O R D

The attached paper by C. H. Schopmeyer of the Office of Agricultural Instruction, Extension Service, reviews the present status of extension work along rural community organization lines in the different States having projects on this subject. After reviewing the matter by States, Mr. Schopmeyer summarizes in general terms what is being done along these lines, and we would especially call the attention of extension directors to this summary.

C. B. Smith,  
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# EXTENSION PROJECTS IN RURAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

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## INTRODUCTION

Rural community organization is receiving more and more consideration by those interested in the promotion of agricultural and home-economics extension activities in the various States. The social life in rural areas has undergone perceptible changes during the past 15 or 20 years. The people living on farms can no longer fully satisfy their wants in their local neighborhoods as they so generally did in the earlier days when agriculture was more self-sufficing. The forces which formerly brought the people living on farms together into unified community groups now fail to exert the same influences. The wants, both material and social of the farm family, have changed; methods in production and marketing have been transformed, and the very mode of life on the farm has undergone many modifications. Lines which once formed a boundary between community groups may now fail to mark the "parting of the ways" in the aggregation of the rural populace.

The people engaged in extension activities in the several States are fully aware that these changes are going on in rural areas. They are also conscious of the advantages in working with groups of people having common interests, common wants, common occupations, and common concepts of life when attempting to get an agricultural and home-economics program under way. In several States particular attention is being given to the social status and organization in rural communities with a view to rendering some service that will aid rural groups of people in establishing a social order that will be in harmony with the new conditions in farming and farm life.

It is aimed to show in this report something of the present status of the rural social organization work as an extension undertaking and to give a brief review of the social organization activities functioning in the different States during the year 1926.

A definite move has been made to centralize this comparatively new phase of extension work under a rural community organization project in the extension service in 14 States. Work of a similar character, but in a less formal way, is being done in other States and in a few, plans are under way for starting a rural organization project in the near future. The States which are now maintaining the projects are listed in the table on page 4. As may be seen in this table, there is a great variation in the amount of funds provided for maintaining the project; likewise there is a diversity of sources from which the funds are derived. In five States only State funds are used for supporting the project, while five States are using State Smith-Lever money. Federal Smith-Lever and State Smith-Lever funds are being used



for the project in two States, one State appropriates State Smith-Lever and State funds and another Federal Smith-Lever and State money for a like purpose.

In most of these States work in the nature of rural social organization has emanated from a project aimed primarily to deal with the economic phases of marketing and cooperation, the economics specialist devoting part of his time to community organization work. When the work grew sufficiently a full-time rural community organization specialist was employed to handle it as a subproject or project in accordance with the particular case. In other States, a more independent rural community organization project was planned at the outset with a full-time specialist in charge.

States setting aside funds for an extension project in  
rural community organization

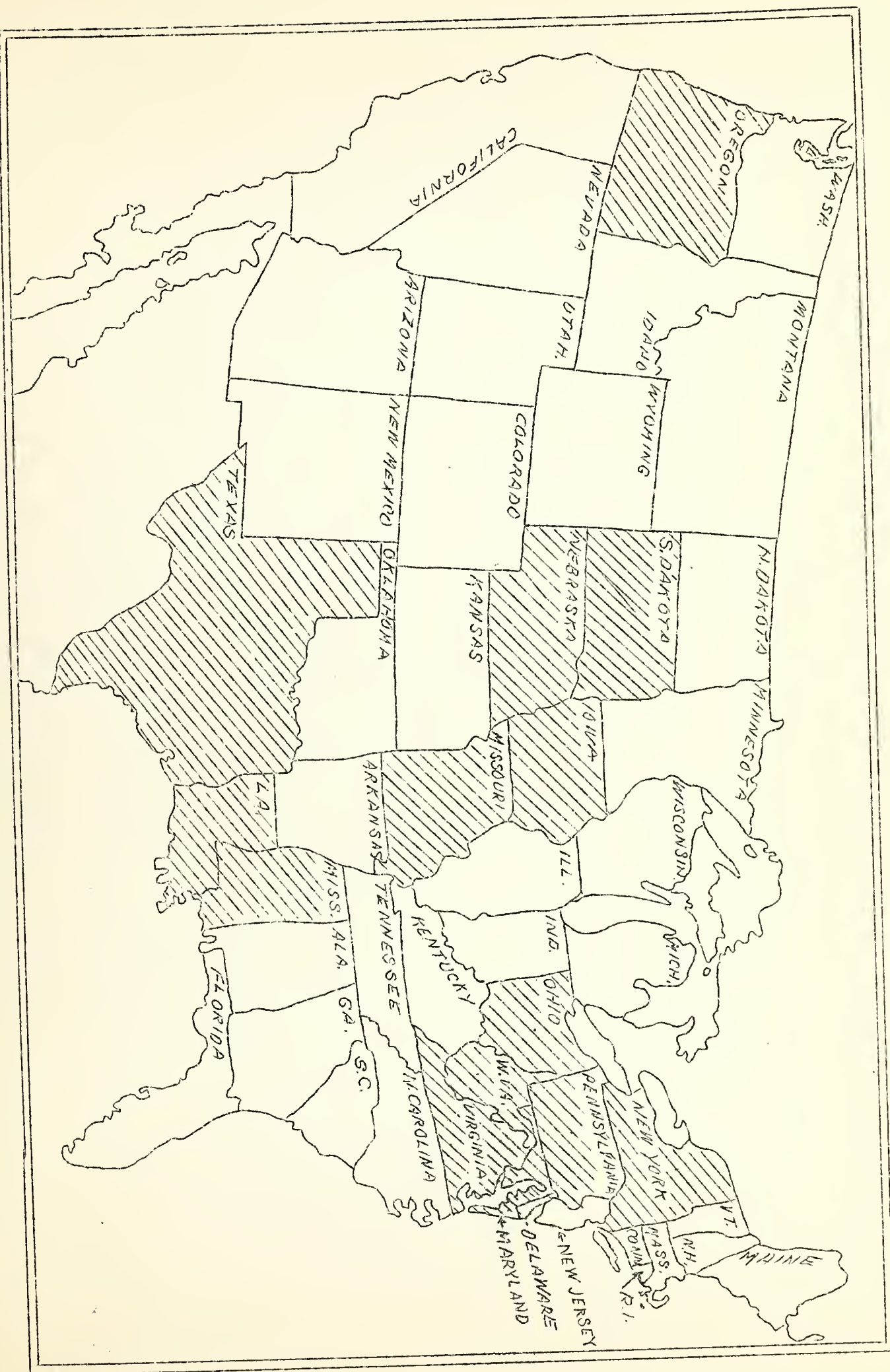
State	Amount of funds 1926-27	Source of funds	Full-time specialists 1926-27	Part-time specialists 1926-27
Iowa.....	\$5,000.00	State	1	0
Louisiana.....	3,300.00	State Smith-Lever	1	0
Maryland.....	2,500.00	State Smith-Lever and State	0	1
Mississippi...	4,990.00	State Smith-Lever	1	0
Missouri.....	4,600.00	Federal Smith-Lever and State Smith-Lever	1	0
Nebraska.....	3,600.00	State	1	0
New York.....	7,450.00	State and Federal Smith- Lever	2	0
Ohio.....	3,400.00	State	1	0
Oregon.....	3,000.00	State Smith-Lever	0	1
Pennsylvania..	15,700.00	State Smith-Lever	3	0
Texas.....	5,716.00	Federal Smith-Lever and State Smith-Lever	1	0
Virginia.....	3,635.00	State	1	0
West Virginia.	10,000.00	State	2	0
South Dakota..	708.33	State Smith-Lever	0	1
Total.....	73,599.33		15	3

By referring to the map on page 5, it is interesting to note how the States carrying on rural community organization work as extension projects are clustered into three groups, with the exception of Oregon. This clustering seems merely incidental. In each of these groups a very different type of farming is carried on. This shows that the interest in rural community organization is not confined to a particular type of farming.





States maintaining extension projects in rural community organization





The following brief review shows something of the nature of the rural community organization work as carried on in each of the 14 States during the year 1926. The substance for this review was taken from different sources. The 1926 report of the rural community organization specialist supplied the information on the work in 11 States. The plan of work for 1926 provided the only source of information on the project in one State, whereas personal letters from State specialists gave brief data on the project in two States.

A wide variation in the character and scope of the work in the different States is revealed. If the real scope and significance of the project in any State have not been fully set forth in this report, it is due largely to a failure to grasp a full comprehension of what is being done by referring to the material at hand. In some States the work has just barely started, whereas in others the present status is the result of several years development.

### IOWA

(The plan of work for 1926 for the rural organization project supplied the data for this summary.) A full-time specialist is employed in this State.

In 1920 township farm bureaus were organized in 1,530 of the 1,620 townships in Iowa. Three-fourths of these have taken up the idea of calling meetings of the members. About 500 of them meet monthly. There are about 45 subordinate granges, 300 farmers' or community clubs, and many farmers' union locals. These organizations are seeking assistance in the following ways:

- (1) Standards to go by.
- (2) Demonstrations.
- (3) Regular services for meeting programs.
- (4) Competition activities.
- (5) Training for leaders.
- (6) Study courses.

In response to these demands the following services have been planned under the project:

- (1) Standards for local township farm bureaus are furnished.
  - (a) Secretaries' record book.
  - (b) Programs for meetings.





(c) Community building suggestions.

(d) Organizing projects to submit to the community for approval.

(e) Aid in putting on county exhibits.

(f) Supply of songs.

(2) Demonstration work is carried on in cooperation with the district extension agents.

(3) Service to leaders.

(a) Program assistance.

(b) Play loan service.

(c) Speakers' list.

(4) Competitive activities.

(a) State-wide farmers' debate.

(b) Community contests.

(c) Rural orchestra contest.

(5) Training for leaders.

(a) County leaders' conference.

(b) Rural pastors' conference.

(6) Study courses.

A citizenship course applied to rural communities has been organized into five lessons as follows:

(1) Our duties as American citizens.

(2) State and National Government.

(3) County and township government in Iowa.

(4) The farm bureau as a public agency.

(5) Success in local meetings.



## LOUISIANA

Organized community work has been conducted in Louisiana for two years previous to March 10, 1927. A full-time specialist is employed. During this time 80 communities have been organized. The plan of organization is as follows. Each organization has three officers - chairman, co-chairman, and secretary. The chairman and co-chairman preside at alternate monthly meetings. Every person living in the community is presumably a member of the organization and no roll of members is kept. The secretary keeps a record of the meetings and reports them to the State office. The three officers appoint persons to act as chairman of the several committees as agriculture, education, home demonstration club, 4-H club, welfare, health, social program, and cooperative marketing. The chairman of each committee is expected to get any other members he desires to serve with him. Each community organization decides on four specific things to accomplish during the year. The activities of a community are directed along three main lines - business, social, and civic.

### Business

"Communities are beginning to get the vision of cooperative marketing, and the people are working together excellently. I wish it were possible to make others know how much they are realizing that this great move is the salvation of the South and its agriculture. In my estimation it is a question of education and build, rather than 'put over.' We realize that we must think individually, but act collectively."

### Social

"Take the culture out of agriculture and we are going to have absentee landlords. A community with a high social standard will have the best farms, best schools, best churches, best 4-H clubs, best homes, and will send out boys and girls that will become leaders wherever they may go. \* \* \* How to live and how to work must begin in our homes and communities."

"One of our social aims has been to get bankers, merchants, farmers, doctors, lawyers, and others to recognize a oneness of purpose."

### Civic

Community activities along civic lines have consisted of road improvement, beautifying cemeteries, planting trees along highways, and beautifying home grounds. A State improvement contest has been organized. "We want our communities to know when the best is placed before the youth, the inferior becomes distasteful."

## MARYLAND

The rural community organization work in Maryland is combined with marketing organization work. The State rural organization specialist has the following to say pertaining to the rural community organization project.



The work under this portion of the project has been largely in the nature of routine work. The general condition of farm organizations in the State has become somewhat critical. The farm bureau in most of the counties shows a diminished membership, while in many counties its activities are carried on intermittently without much energy and without a practical program.

The grange may be said to be holding its own, but in many counties the organization is largely nominal. There seems to be an urgent need for a careful analysis of the organization program in this State, with a view to working out a plan for coordination and cooperation of all types of rural organization in pursuit of a common community, county, and State program.

In the meantime, extension agents and specialists will continue to cooperate with all local, county, and State organizations which may assist them in carrying on a satisfactory program of extension work.

#### MISSISSIPPI

The community organization project has been in effect less than one year in this State. The time of one specialist is divided between community organization and local fairs.

The plan for organizing communities is:

(1) The county agent and county home demonstration agent confer and decide upon likely locations for an organization.

(2) The county agent calls a mass meeting in these localities to consider an organization. The meeting is usually held in a schoolhouse at night.

(3) Where an organization meets with approval the officers are elected and a simple constitution and by-laws are adopted.

(4) Five committees are appointed by the president:

(a) Program.

(b) Agriculture.

(c) Home making.

(d) Health.

(e) Boys' and girls' club.

(5) The program committee at some later date meets with the county extension agents to work out a program for the year.





Since the project was started, 90 communities have been organized. Such subjects as the following are found on the programs for local meetings: Community singing, farm inventory, pruning and spraying the home orchard, fertilizers for crops, demonstration - poisoning boll weevil, preparing exhibits for fairs, safeguarding community health, feeding and care of the home cow, valentine games and stunts for young people, fresh vegetables in the diet, personal hygiene, care of the outside of the house, care of summer clothing, boys' and girls' club work, patriotic address.

Community leaders' councils are held in counties having five or more organizations. In cooperation with the county agents these leaders work out a program for the county.

A two-day conference of the community leaders in the State was held at the college in July. Over 400 delegates attended this meeting. A discussion of the following subjects was the main feature of the program:

The three fundamental institutions in the community - the home, the school, the church.

What extension work means to the community.

Woman's work in the community.

4-H club leader's work in the community.

A state-wide community organization contest is conducted. Awards are made on the basis of a community score card in which there are four main divisions: Community improvement, men's, women's, boys' and girls' clubs, livestock and poultry, fairs.

During the year several addresses were given by the specialist at meetings of various organizations.

Community buildings have received some consideration in the State. The specialist has given assistance in the way of building plans and meeting with community building committees.

## MISSOURI

In this State a full-time specialist in rural community organization works entirely through the men and women county extension agents in all the counties which have such services. No separate community organization project is listed on the county programs. This work is considered by the county staffs and State agents as a method for carrying on general extension projects.

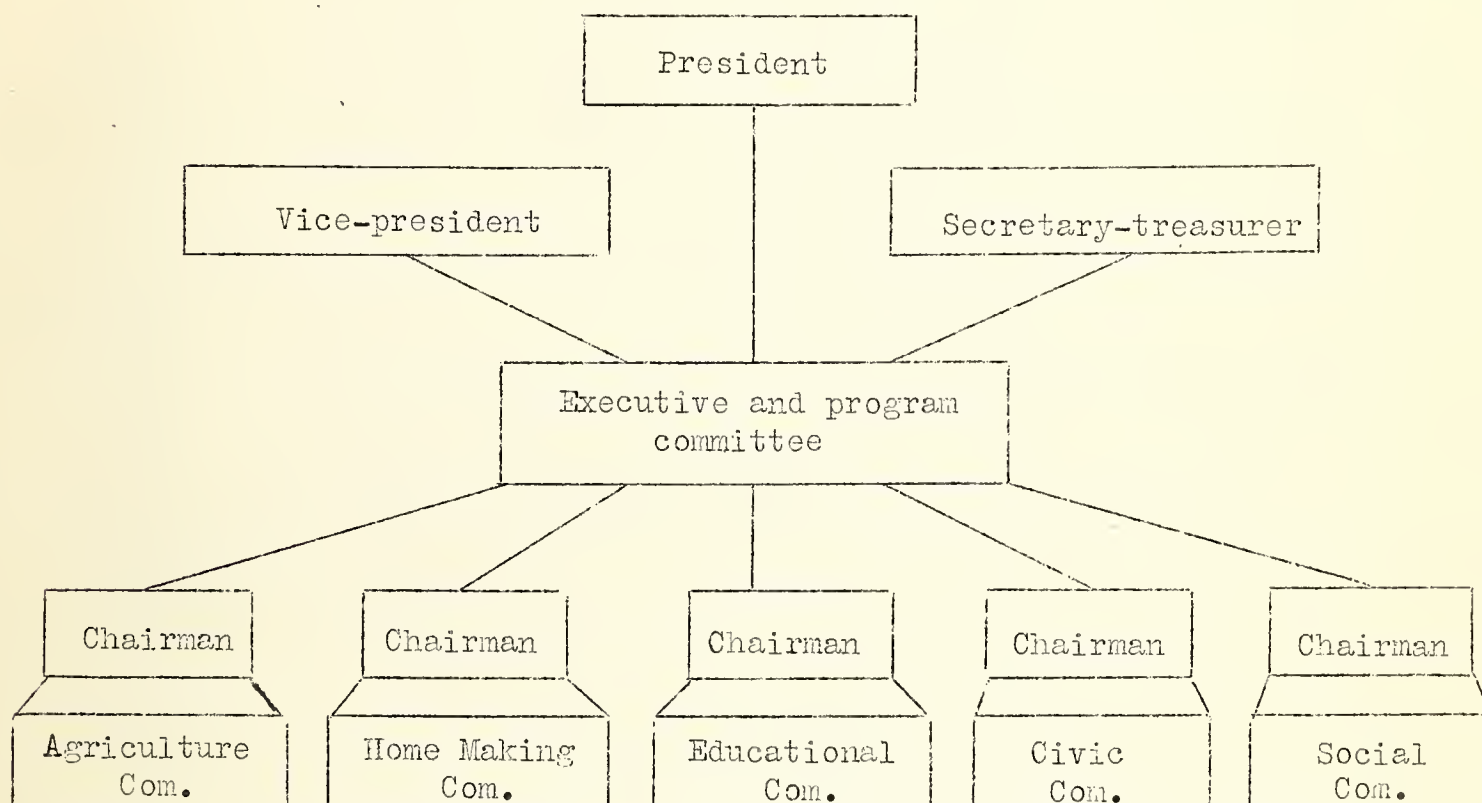




Efforts have been directed largely toward the ultimate development of standard community associations, intended to include throughout the State all phases of community life except religion. Religion may be included.

It is the aim in developing standard community associations to bring the people of a community to think in terms of their common good, to make plans for solving their common problems, and finally to develop a practical way to carry out their plan through cooperative effort.

Organization plan of a Missouri standard community association



Steps in the development of a standard community association as outlined in the specialist's report.

- (1) Discover and develop individual leadership.  
Personal conference with selected leaders.
- (2) Small group meeting of selected leaders.  
Those who were interviewed.
- (3) First community-wide mass meeting.  
Election of officers and committeemen.
- (4) Special meeting of officers and all committeemen.  
To select program of work for the year.



- (5) Meeting of program committee - officers and committee chairman.  
Planning meeting programs for the year.
- (6) Second community mass meeting.  
Adoption of program of work.

Thirty new standard community associations were started during the year 1926.

Some distinguishing features of this plan of organization as set forth in Circular 183, Community Organization in Missouri, by B. L. Hummel:

- (1) All phases of community life except religion are included; this may be added.
- (2) There is no membership list. Every one over 14 years who is sufficiently interested to express a preference is a voting member.
- (3) There is no membership fee, and there are no dues.
- (4) An annual program of work is selected and this program when worked out in detail becomes the basis of the regular monthly meeting programs.
- (5) It is a working organization as well as a meeting, talking and eating one.
- (6) The Missouri standard community association is for all the people and is in no way limited to the membership of any organization.
- (7) The name is such that it does not suggest either a town or a country group but includes both.
- (8) It puts the right person in the right place to serve best.
- (9) It provides a practical and effective way of checking on progress.
- (10) It distributes responsibility and develops leadership.
- (11) It encourages the spirit of democracy both by the form of organization and the whole method of procedure.
- (12) It provides a practical means of getting all the people of a community to thinking, planning, and working together.
- (13) It encourages the long look ahead. Community progress is planned. Develops vision.
- (14) Meeting programs are planned a year in advance.
- (15) The resources of the home folks are developed to the fullest by home talent programs.



## Locating and Mapping a Rural Community

In this work a community is considered to be "a group or company of people living fairly close together in a more or less compact, contiguous territory who are coming to act together in the chief concerns of life." A complete community would have its own high school, trading point, social center, church, cemetery, telephone exchange, bank, postoffice, shipping point, garage, blacksmith shop, and lodge, thus composing a more or less self-sufficing group.

Locating and mapping these natural communities in Missouri has been done by committees of local citizens cooperating with such officials as the county superintendent of schools, presidents of county farmers' organizations, the presidents of county Sunday school associations, and the county agricultural extension agent. After the maps of the communities have been completed they are returned by the State specialist to the people in the local communities for their correction and approval.

Whole counties or even larger districts should be mapped at a time to alleviate the difficulty of overlapping of boundary lines or having them fail to meet in adjacent communities. The maps are not considered as final or fixed. Boundary lines may shift as time goes on, due to possibility of social changes.

During the past year 20 counties were mapped in which 294 natural communities were located. Surveys had been previously made in 53 counties in which there were county agents working. A total of 634 communities were located in these counties. In all, 73 counties have been surveyed in which 928 communities were charted.

### Factors Found which Determine the Community Areas

A survey has been made of 144 of the communities as mapped to determine the relative importance of 14 different factors in determining the size of these communities. These factors are listed below in order of their importance.

Trade area.	Telephone exchange.
Social center.	Church affiliation.
Distance from other centers.	Lodge membership.
High school.	Mail delivery.
Roads.	Township, county, or State line.
Shipping point.	Prejudices or disputes.
Natural barriers or topography.	Race or nationality.

### Developing Simple Community Extension Programs in Agriculture and Home Economics

Communities in counties where standard community associations have not been developed were taken into consideration with a view to working out a more effective plan for executing extension programs. A plan was developed





whereby assistance can be given these communities. About 200 communities in 40 counties will be furnished assistance in organizing under the simplified plan.

Quoting from the State specialist's report, "the plan of procedure in starting the simple community extension programs is to go to the community center and get from two or three well-informed and dependable citizens the names of the school districts which belong in the community. This is occasion for acquainting them with the community map of the county. They are then asked to suggest two of the most dependable, progressive, and respected families of each district. It is explained that these people are to be called together to have the extension work explained to them and make plans for the work for the coming year. A definite and a limited program is to be selected for the community out of the county program for the year. When these representative people have been gotten, as a result of two or three recommendations and the acquaintance which the agent may already have, these people are then called upon and a meeting announced for the purpose of deciding upon a definite extension program for the community for the coming year. It is explained to each family that a large crowd can not function in such work and that two representative families are being called from each district, they being one family. The exact time and place of the meeting is stated.

"Individual opinions are gotten from each one present after an extension agent has explained the special merits of each project listed, and finally after discussion a group vote is taken as to which project shall be the main issue for the year and what additional work shall be carried as a second project.

"When this is decided, the need of a definite committee to carry out the program selected is pointed out and a community leader with a committeeman from each school district is elected. The agent returns to the community and makes all necessary plans with this committee for carrying out the year's program of work. It is indicated just what the committeemen are responsible for and what the agent shall do. The work is then carried out by the committee with the help of the agent during the year."

Encouragement has also been given during the year to the further development of women's neighborhood clubs.

Again quoting from this report, "the State specialist and the various subject-matter specialists are attempting to work out a scheme by which each subject-matter department can use the two types of community organizations to best advantage in putting across the subject-matter projects, and at the same time leave the groups stronger and more capable of dealing with other problems.

"The relationships are the most important consideration, since the plan of procedure is based upon harmonious cooperation of all extension forces in the one great movement for the building up in the State of economically sound and socially efficient rural communities."





## NEBRASKA

The community organization work in Nebraska consists of furnishing assistance to the various cooperating agencies and working in communities in counties having extension agents functioning directly under the State community organization project.

A large number of suggestive programs have been worked up by the State specialist. These programs are arranged for the purpose of furnishing a complete list of subjects for an evening's meeting. In each program there is a main feature with a sufficient number of supplementary features to meet the requirements of an evening meeting. Each program is given a special title which implies the main feature and its general nature. An entertainment feature is included in all programs to furnish variety. The following are titles of some of the typical programs: Better livestock program, mock trial - robbing the soil, mock debate, play for the child and grown-up, cooperation between the home and school, beautifying the home and farmstead, home and Sunday school in cooperation, program for Arbor Day, when the eighth-graders graduate. These programs supply practically all the material needed for working up a local program.

In Nebraska 50 counties are without extension agents. Programs have been furnished schools, parent-teachers' associations, farmers' equity, farmers' union, grange, and farm bureaus in these counties. They are also used extensively in counties having extension agents.

During the past year activities have been directed toward the development of Nebraska standard community organizations. Standardization is based upon minimum activity requirements. The plan for organizing a community is:

- (1) A general organization mass meeting.
  - (a) Choosing of officers - president, secretary, treasurer.
  - (b) Appoint project committee.
- (2) A county-wide committee conference.

To qualify as a standard community organization there must be six meetings of the organization held during the year, following approved programs. Suggestive programs are supplied by the State specialist. Three extension projects of an agricultural nature must be carried on in the community. Charters are issued to organizations meeting the requirements and achievement seals are awarded each succeeding year the work is kept up to the standard. A total of 61 community organizations have met these requirements, with 27 other counties asking for recognition.

In this State it is believed the function of a community organization is: (1) To furnish entertainment; (2) to encourage a closer study of agricultural problems; (3) to develop leadership; (4) to make project work of community-wide interest; (5) to assist in meeting legislative requirements in farm bureau organizations and memberships.



In a number of communities, organizations have grown up around an active boys' and girls' club and women's clubs. The community organization sponsors the club whatever the type of the club is.

The specialist reports having given a large number of addresses before meetings of the various kinds of organizations in the State, such as, chambers of commerce, Rotary, and other similar clubs, Sunday schools, parent-teachers' association meetings, and radio talks.

#### NEW YORK

The work of the department of rural social organization of the New York State College of Agriculture in the rural social organization extension project may be summed up by the expression "better country life." Two full-time specialists are employed. The full time of one is devoted to dramatic work. Rural organization commands the full time of the other.

During 1926 increased attention was given to rural community organization problems. A large number of communities are fairly well supplied with subject matter and are desirous of making improvements, but they seem to have difficulty in getting started. Local jealousies and hesitant leaders seem to delay the initial step.

The rural community organization project consists of an effort to get things started. Just what is started depends entirely on the local conditions.

The department has been working under the policy of cooperating with rural organizations already in existence rather than try to bring new ones into being. It is deemed that any subject-matter material should be put into form specifically for the use of the present existing agencies.

Subproject Rural Community Organization activities during the year have consisted of the following: Getting a fire truck for a village; building a community house; equipping a school playground; starting a regular health clinic; arranging for monthly community meetings; equipping a parish house; beautifying the school and church grounds; arranging for week-day religious education in cooperation with the public schools; organizing a vacation church school; starting a loan library; and arranging a year's program for granges and community clubs.

Considerable time has been devoted in trying to convince communities not to do certain things, which in the light of the circumstances appeared to be unwise.

Subproject Community Civics consists of getting the local agencies or institutions working together on some kind of a community program. This subproject is arranged in a series of three sessions with a month or six weeks intervening between each session. The following subjects were studied: The farm and the village; the farm home and the community extension education; how cooperation strengthens the community; community government; the community's play and recreation; community's religious life; community health and community loyalty.





During this study some common objectives were arrived at and an agreement was reached upon the responsibilities the different institutions in the community should assume in carrying on the lines of work considered.

Subproject Recreational Leadership. It is thought that recreation functions in three important ways in contributing to the rural-life needs of to-day.

(1) Farmers are discouraged. Recreation gives them a little mental vacation.

(2) They find great difficulty in cooperation. Recreation teaches cooperation or teamplay.

(3) Our most pressing need in the country is leaders. The various qualities of leadership are developed through play and games.

At country-wide training institutes a representative of the department leads some games, then each person present takes his turn in leading. The type of recreational material that is used is the kind in which all can take a part.

The departments at the college which deal with agricultural production must work almost entirely with the farmer on his farm, while the work in rural social organization must reach the farmer's social organizations wherever they may be. They are increasingly centering in the rural village.

Over a thousand rural people attended the training schools conducted by the rural organization department. Nearly 50 per cent of the attendance were from the farm or home bureau and 46 per cent were grange members. Eighty-six per cent were working in some rural church.

A two-weeks' school for rural clergymen has been conducted at the college during the past three summers with an increasing attendance each year.

A total of 267 training meetings and 87 conferences were held during the year.

Subproject - Rural Dramatics. The purposes of this project as set forth in the report are as follows:

(1) To show the possibilities of dramatics as a community activity to those communities and organizations needing a program fitted to the needs of all ages.

(2) To aid with the selection of plays working toward a higher standard of appreciation.

(3) To show how by using simple inexpensive materials at hand or easily obtainable, better and more economical productions can be had than is possible by copying crudely the town or city theater.



(4) To develop leaders by giving technical instruction and encouraging the students in directing the plays in their communities.

### Ways of Accomplishing these Purposes

#### Selection of Plays

In order to aid in the selection of plays a loan library of plays has been organized. It has 231 plays of different kinds to be lent for a period of two weeks. During the year ending November 30, 1926, 1,624 loans were made. This service also gives advice on the selection of plays suitable for special circumstances.

#### Equipment

A demonstration is made of the use of simple equipment during farmers' week at the college. In addition to plays given with the equipment, a lecture is given explaining the equipment and giving the cost of it. This work is also taken up in the leader-training schools.

#### Leader Training

Leader-training schools were conducted in 21 counties with an attendance of 657. Home bureaus, granges, various church organizations, parent-teachers' associations, women's clubs, Eastern Star, and Rebeccas were represented in the enrollment. These schools consisted of three all-day sessions held one each month for three consecutive months. The course given covers the following points.

Play selection.

Technique of conducting rehearsals.

Stage movement and reading.

Staging.

Making up.

Ten "Little Country Theaters" are conducted in connection with county fairs. These really give dramatic exhibits as several communities compete in presenting plays. A score card is used to determine the winners.

### OHIO

The following factors are used to determine projects in social and recreational activities in Ohio as set forth in the report of the specialist:

(1) The growing demand on the part of leaders in rural organizations for assistance in making their meetings interesting and more attractive to their membership.





(2) A survey made of recreation and recreational facilities in Paulding and Gallia Counties brought out the fact of the recreational poverty and the lack of any well-organized rural recreation program.

(3) The universal use of home talent plays as a means of entertainment in the rural communities.

(4) Requests from local leaders for games and stunts for community meetings, special parties, and picnics.

(5) A feeling on the part of rural leaders that the function of education is to teach folks not only how to make a living, but it also should teach them how to live.

(6) That in order to succeed in other cooperative movements folks should forget self and have the spirit and habit of play.

(7) That through a well-planned and well-organized social and recreational program, the people staying in the country would be positively rather than negatively chosen.

#### Amateur Dramatics

The production of home talent plays seems to be of universal interest in rural communities. The needs and desires pertaining to amateur dramatics were arrived at by an exhaustive survey made in two counties in the summer of 1925.

Leader-training schools based on the data collected in this survey were held in 19 counties in the fall and winter of 1925-26.

These schools were attended by representatives from the following: Grange, farm bureau, schools, parent-teachers' associations, normal schools, women's clubs, church groups, 4-H clubs, literary societies, and the American Legion.

The following subjects were discussed and demonstrated: The place of amateur dramatics in a rural recreation program; choosing a play; conducting rehearsals; stage scenery and curtain construction; costuming and making up.

Various organizations report a decided increase in the use of plays, particularly one-act plays.

The report states that "one example is enough to show the recreational and social as well as the financial value of home talent plays. Mark Center, Defiance County, was planning an independent community institute. They sent two representatives to the county meeting and a community play was suggested to raise the necessary finances. A play requiring 27 characters was chosen. The oldest participant was a man of 70 years and the youngest a boy of 19. The rehearsals brought folks together in a social way. Some of them had never become acquainted before, although the majority had lived in the community



most of their lives. The play was produced during one of the coldest nights of the winter of 1926 to an audience of over 800 people. The director writes that she has requests from over 50 folks for a part in another play."

### Little Theater

Nine counties conducted the Little Theater either at their county fairs or county picnics during 1926. It is planned to have the Little Theater increased in the State so that districts can be formed, hold a contest in each district, and have the district winners compete in a contest at the State fair or during farmers' week at the college.

One-day conferences for grange officer were held in 11 counties. These conferences were arranged by the local county agent and the deputy grange master. A portion of the time was given over to demonstrating games and stunts. The following subjects were discussed: (1) Why rural organizations; (2) what constitutes a good meeting; (3) agencies and organizations that can render assistance in making for a better rural life.

Assistance was give the grange in conducting an improvement contest. Grange lecture conferences were held at the college during farmers' week. The subject taken up in the 1926 conference was Recreation, and the phases discussed were: (1) Games as ice breakers, (2) handling the group, (3) getting folks to take part, (4) play in education.

Assistance was given at the Ohio State Grange Lecture Conference at Akron, Ohio, December, 1925. The following topics were discussed as special features in grange programs: Dramatics, pageantry, music, story telling, local fairs.

### 4-H Club Work

The following is quoted from the report of the specialist:

"Club leaders and officers were met in 21 counties during May and June 1926. A period was devoted to mass recreation and then the group was divided and special help given to the local 4-H recreational leader in the use of various types of recreation at 4-H club meetings. Demonstrations were given in games, musical games, music appreciation, and how to use story telling and reading in the club.

We feel that the time spent with the 4-H club groups is the best of the whole year for the following reasons:

(1) Recreation and sociability play an important part in the education of youth.

(2) An opportunity is given to present the necessity of a well-organized social program.

(3) The various types of recreation can be evaluated and assistance can be given in the choosing of the leisure time activities that will make for 4-H development."





## Rural Pastors' School

A course of instruction on recreation and its relation to the church was given at the Rural Pastors' School in June, 1926. The following subjects previously approved by the Educational Recreation Institute at Chicago were taken up:

Nature, function, and aim of recreation.

General need and present practice.

How to find the needs of a local church, community, or individual institution.

Standards of church recreation.

How to organize educational recreation in the local church.

How to adapt recreation to different age groups.

Source materials, filing, organizing, and the like.

Building programs for special occasions.

Building a year's program.

Technique of leadership.

Finding and training leaders.

Correlation with other agencies.

Specialized activities, camping, dramatics, pageantry, and the like.

Eleven periods of one and one-half hours each were spent in discussing and demonstrating the above subjects. This contact has opened a new field and several requests have come from rural ministers for help in planning a rural social program for their membership. We feel that this is important, for the reason that a live church linked up with the home, school, grange, and farm bureau will help to overcome the recreational poverty so prevalent.

## Camps

Encouragement and assistance have been given to rural camps. During the past year (1926) classes were held at two leadership training camps in which recreational methods were discussed and demonstrations given in the various types of recreation. Two women's camps and three junior camps were held during the year. The main feature in the programs at these camps was recreation. More interest is manifested in social and recreational activities at the camps than in "subject-matter" instruction. At a women's camp of 53 women an opportunity was given to express an opinion on what the camp program should feature next year. The vote was 50 to 3 in favor of recreational and social





activities as opposed to subject-matter instruction.

### Play Loans

The play loan service seems to be filling an urgent need in dramatic work. It is carried on in cooperation with the Ohio State library. The extension service compiles the lists of plays and the State library makes the distribution through a direct mail service.

### "Spare Tire" or Program Service

Mimeographed circulars called "Spare Tires" are issued by the State office to meet the demands for games and stunts used at the group conferences. These are distributed through the county agent's office to those interested in planning community programs.

### OREGON

The rural organization work in Oregon consisted of aiding and furnishing a large amount of reference material for a state-wide grange debating contest on the subject:

Resolved, That the Federal Government should not begin the development of any new reclamation projects until there is a demand for agricultural products that will pay cost of production, plus a reasonable profit.

The final championship debate was held at the college in January, 1927.

A three-day school of methods for grange lecturers has been arranged for, to be held at the college at Corvallis early in 1927. The following are the main subjects to be considered:

Value of community organization.

Need of rural leadership.

How to promote community interest.

Maintaining interest in a rural community.

Music and its place in the lecturer's program.

How to build a program.

Emergency program demonstrated.

Interesting the young people.

Special programs demonstrated.

For the good of the order.

Community drama.



The final grange debate in the state-wide contest is to be held on the last evening of the school.

## PENNSYLVANIA

In Pennsylvania a department of agricultural economics emphasizes work along the lines of marketing, business practices, and rural social life. The work is distributed among three full-time specialists.

The rural sociology project has been built from the ground up without previous research data to serve as a guide.

During the past year 42 of the 65 counties in the extension program were reached by work under the rural sociology project. It has been the policy to work with existing community groups along the lines of their particular interests. The State specialists have prepared materials, planned exhibits and demonstrations to aid community organizations in carrying on their work.

### Social Leadership Project

The rural social leadership project is divided into four subprojects:

- (1) Community measurement conferences.
- (2) Methods in leadership.
- (3) Recreational leadership.
- (4) Organization analysis and program making.

Community measurement conferences aim to discover the conditions as they exist in the local community and construct a program to fit the conditions. The conference plan is as follows:

One meeting a month is held for seven months with selected local leaders. The subjects discussed at these meetings are health and sanitation, homes and home life, citizenship, church and religious life, recreational life, education and business. A measurement sheet or score card is developed for the community. At the close of the conference a final general meeting for the whole community is held at which the conclusions of the conference are presented. This work was carried on in four counties during the year.

County leadership conferences, a State leadership conference, the completion of an educational play "Seein' Far," demonstrations and lectures with special groups have made it possible to reach 42 counties in the State with leadership training.

In response to requests for help in planning and conducting programs, assistance was given leaders in developing year-round programs in six counties. In this service a careful analysis is made of the community's social and economic needs.



### Rural Community Organization Project

There are four subprojects conducted under this project.

- (1) Lectures at meetings.
- (2) Starting community meetings.
- (3) Community buildings.
- (4) Programs prepared and furnished.

The larger part of the services rendered under this project was in the form of lectures and furnishing programs.

### Rural Recreation Project

This project is divided into the following subprojects:

- (1) Dramatics.
- (2) Starting and maintaining social centers.
- (3) Farmers' picnics.
- (4) Agricultural debates.
- (5) Junior club camps.

Three things have been accomplished in dramatics: (1) A better type of play has been introduced through the play reading library; (2) more attention is given to the artistic side through demonstrations in staging, lighting, and costuming plays; (3) the play is made to serve a broader field of interest by organizing an exchange of performances.

Several organizations prepare plays and performances are exchanged. A whole winter's entertainment in this way is provided in a community with the preparation of only one play. Season tickets are sold. By this arrangement \$1,500 was raised in a section of a county last winter, and 28 counties were reached by services in this project during the year.

Assistance was given in the presentation of three pageants and help was given in planning farmers' picnics in 25 counties during the year. Approximately 90,000 people attended these picnics. In one county the entire entertainment program was furnished by the local people. The attendance was 3,000, and the expense was approximately \$50.

### SOUTH DAKOTA

This statement concerning the rural organization work in South Dakota is taken from a personal letter from Prof. W. F. Kumlien, under date of March 21, 1927.





"Very little is being done in the way of rural organization work in connection with the agricultural extension program in this State at present. We did have a full-time specialist in this work until a year ago but at that time the project was discontinued owing to lack of funds. At the present time such work as is being carried on is effected through the county agents leader's office. Now during the year about one month of the time of one person is devoted to making surveys in the State, relating more or less directly to rural social organization. The survey under way at this time pertains to determining the factors which make for success in community club organizations."

#### TEXAS

The extension organization activities in Texas seem to be directed more especially to the organization of productive efforts rather than rural social life. It is stated that the organization problem exists in organizing agricultural interests first for farming as an industry, second for farming as a business, and third for farming as a life.

In this State it is reported that rural life organization is receiving the least attention of any of the three phases. The service is not deemed sufficiently equipped to give adequate assistance in promoting community activities along the line of recreation, health, religion, education, or entertainment. The policy for handling rural life problems is to introduce them to such public agencies as may be found prepared and willing to undertake their solution.

#### VIRGINIA

Taken from a personal letter of March 21, 1927, by Clarence L. Pickard, Farm Management Demonstrator.

"It is reported that the rural sociology extension work in Virginia is just getting under way. At present the extension activities are directed first in assisting rural communities in forming farmers' clubs and in making a self-community analysis by the score card method; second, in carrying on an educational campaign by articles in papers and by furnishing agricultural leaders with socially significant facts pertaining to rural Virginia."

#### WEST VIRGINIA

The plan for the rural organization work in West Virginia devolves upon country-life conferences. It is held that one of the chief functions of country-life conferences is that of cultivating an adequate philosophy of rural life in the State. A full-time specialist is in charge of the work.

#### Country-Life Schools

Country-life schools were held during the year for 11 communities, 100 sessions in all being held. The sessions were 40 minutes long and were held in the evening. The subjects discussed were:



Childhood and youth.	Citizenship.
How to grow and market sheep.	4-H club work.
How to grow and market potatoes.	How to produce and market poultry.
Evangeline.	The dairy industry.
Snowbound.	Improving the dairy herd.
The Great Stone Face.	Soil fertility and pasture problem.
The Vision of Sir Launfal.	Recreation.
Lincoln.	Cooperative marketing.
	Truck crops and small fruits.

Such organized groups as the 4-H clubs, farm women's clubs, Sunday schools, and community councils conducted the devotional and community singing periods at the opening of each session.

The subjects taken up in these schools are aimed to help people in making a living and in making a life. With this view, subjects were selected which relate to production and the cultural side of life. Two instructors conducted the schools, one to take up the production subjects and the other the cultural subjects. The first session of the evening included all meeting together. Two groups were formed for the second session. The total attendance at these schools was 3,200.

County agents and vocational agricultural teachers are fitted to discuss the production subjects in these schools. Ministers, teachers, and others may take up the life side subjects.

#### Speakers' Bureau

With the idea of utilizing local talent in developing the county program, a speakers' bureau has been established in two counties.

#### County Calendar

In order to overcome the difficulties in the overlapping of meeting dates of the different organizations in the counties and the lack of a general appreciation of the different programs, the officers of the various organizations in Barbour County were called together to work out a county schedule of meeting dates. Out of this grew the publication of a county organization directory.





## Articles on Religion and Life

Fifty-two articles on "Religion and Life" were prepared for publication in 1926. The Sunday edition of the Clarksburg Exponent and 15 weeklies published these articles. The rural organization specialist prepared them.

The community organizations in the State raised funds for financing a trip abroad in the summer of 1926 by the specialist A. H. Rapping of West Virginia University. An extensive report was made of this trip.

County country-life conferences were held in six counties during the year. At these conferences annual reports on activities are made by the various organizations in the county.

Judging from the reports of county workers in rural social organizations, progress in the country-life conference scheme depends in a large measure upon consistent and adequate follow-up work, however questionable results may come from a conference in counties where the local workers do not have the proper vision of the opportunities for such work. Many seem unable to appreciate the value of a conference as a means to a larger development of their work. The report states that it has not dawned upon the minds of many that every problem is in a way a religious problem or that religion furnishes a basis for a philosophy of life that helps to make life dynamic. Religion is that something, which, if properly understood and interpreted, will motivate folks to make great sacrifices to be 4-H club and community leaders.

The specialist says: "I am not advocating that county workers should pose as specialists in religious matters, but I believe that their understanding of religion and their attitude toward religion is one of the greatest limiting factors in the development of our program. Despite the lack of the largest possible vision and the lack of the proper training, I believe that our county and State workers are the greatest missionary force in the State to-day in ushering in the new and better day in West Virginia.

"The amount of help which can be given to a community is limited by the funds available for the support of the work. It is doubtful wisdom to develop a sort of dole system by which we will do for the people what we ought to reasonably expect them to do for themselves. I believe, therefore, in fairness to the people, and for the best future development of our program, that more adequate steps need to be taken in the development of local leaders."

## SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

The rural community organization project activities found in operation in the 14 States may be classified under the following headings:

- (1) Recreation.
- (2) Entertainment.
- (3) Debating.
- (4) Education.
- (5) Finding and training leaders.





- (6) Township, county, and State civics.
- (7) Health, welfare, and sanitation.
- (8) Community beautification.
- (9) Community buildings.
- (10) Units in rural community and social organization.

#### Recreation

It has been stated that recreational poverty is prevalent in rural communities. Recreation is encouraged by introducing at the various local community gatherings play and games in which all in attendance can participate and enjoy themselves, the opening and conducting of rural camps, such as women's club camps, rural pastors' camps, 4-H club camps, and leader-training camps, and the holding of farmers' picnics at an opportune time in the summer. Just what is done or what constitutes the programs used to make these various activities effective has depended a great deal upon the particular situation or occasion. In the majority of cases recreation has been the important feature of the program.

#### Entertainment

It has been found that rural people everywhere have a desire for certain forms of entertainment. Music, plays, picnics, and pageants have been found appropriate forms of entertainment. The Little Theater has received considerable attention. Dramatic contests have been conducted with satisfactory results.

#### Debating

Debating has received considerable attention in community work. State-wide debating contests have been reported in which questions of vital interest to farmers were discussed. Extension specialists have furnished references on the subjects and have assisted in planning these contests.

#### Education

A large part of the community work carried on in the States is of an educational nature. In fact, the whole scheme of rural community organization has an educational aspect. Contacts have been made with local schools, parent-teachers' associations, and county and State public school officials. Such subjects as these have been taken up in schools and conferences: Play and education, childhood and youth, religious education, religion and life, extension education, rural education, and artistic appreciation. Educational subjects are generally found on programs for community meetings. Most of the questions selected for debates were of such a nature that the discussions of them have had an educational influence.



## Finding and Training of Leaders

The lack of competent local leaders is considered to be the greatest hindrance to rural community development. Much time and effort have been spent in all States where the project is organized in finding and training leaders for the several phases of the work undertaken.

Leader-training schools have had more emphasis than any other single feature. Schools and conferences have been held for the training of local persons to lead in play, singing, dramatics, and pageant work in their own home community or club.

## Civics

In some localities studies have been taken up of the township, county, and State governments. Enlightenment from such studies have doubtless resulted in a better understanding of community relationships.

## Health, Welfare, and Sanitation

Although these subjects have not had a prominent place in community programs they have not been overlooked. They have occurred on the program of several rural conferences and have been directly included in other phases of work.

## Community Beautification

Improvement of school grounds, planting of roadsides, and home ground improvement are among the accomplishments in this line.

## Community Buildings

A question of general interest is that of a suitable place to hold community meetings. The remodeling of old buildings and the erection of new buildings have been matters of chief concern in many States.

## Units in Rural Community and Social Organization

All attempts to bring about an improvement in rural social conditions have depended very greatly upon the contacts made with the local organization unit for success. It is evident that the composition and function of the local unit must be well understood before making a move toward introducing outside influences. In most of the States considered the work is being carried on with the social organization units found in existence, such as grange, farm bureau, 4-H clubs, churches, schools, women's clubs, and dramatic clubs. In one State efforts are being directed toward the organization of new communities on the basis of surveys aimed to discover the boundary lines of what is termed a standard community. In another State attainment standards have been fixed for community organizations with honorary awards for communities which succeed in meeting the standards.



### Ways and Means

The following ways and means have been found in general use in the several States to put into effect the content of the various programs:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Meetings.                                  | (11) Plays.                                       |
| (a) Schools.                                   |   |
| (b) Conferences.                               | (12) Little Theaters.                             |
| (2) Surveys.                                   | (13) Press articles.                              |
| (3) Furnishing programs for<br>local meetings. | (14) Pageants.                                    |
| (4) Play loan services.                        | (15) Singing and music.                           |
| (5) Contests.                                  | (16) Demonstrations.                              |
| (6) Camps.                                     | (17) Distribution of reference<br>material.       |
| (7) Lectures.                                  | (18) Committee assignments.                       |
| (8) Picnics.                                   | (19) Local projects.                              |
| (9) Local fairs.                               | (20) Cooperation with other<br>extension workers. |
| (10) Exhibits.                                 |   |

### Basis for Future Work

Wherein are to be found the opportunities for the future development of rural social organization extension work? This is a broad and searching question. There are two fields for inquiry which give promise of furnishing enlightening facts serviceable in seeking an answer to the question. The first is the agricultural industry in its present status; the second is the conditions of the social life of the people living in rural communities. The rural home considered as a social institution is meant to be included under rural social life.

The lines of research recently started under the provisions of the Purnell Act will in time doubtless evolve data useful in guiding attempts to develop a permanent rural community organization program. However, there is at present an urgent need for something upon which to build. The emergency need can be supplied in some measure from data already accumulated from which general observations, conclusions, and interpretations of specific community conditions may be drawn. The efforts of rural organization workers are now of necessity directed along two lines: The finding of the local community conditions, and the offering of constructive service in an attempt to better them. Under these circumstances, community social needs, desires, and potentialities are brought to light and analyzed in view of the business conditions in agriculture. A basis is thus obtained upon which to devolve a program that will tend to satisfy the needs and desires of the people and lead them to a fuller development of community life.





## Complexity of the Community

It is not always an easy matter to interpret the possibilities of the agricultural industry in a locality. It is still more difficult to get at the social needs, desires, and opportunities of the people in that same locality and devise a program to meet them.

The following are some of the more important factors tending to characterize a community and make the social status in it complex and difficult to understand:

- |                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| (1) Race.        | (6) Social attitudes and ideals. |
| (2) Nationality. | (7) Geographic location.         |
| (3) Religion.    | (8) Type of farming.             |
| (4) Politics.    | (9) Land tenure.                 |
| (5) Traditions.  |                                  |

In view of these conditions rapid progress in social organization should not be expected. Permanent good and enduring progress should be looked for rather than startling activities having only limited and temporary influence.

Community organization programs have not been to any large extent extraneous or superimposed. They have generally resulted from the coordination of the ideas of representatives of the community, local county extension agents, and the State specialist, being finally approved by the community as a whole. The contents of these programs have tended to supply the needs felt by the community and to satisfy the yearnings of the people for a richer and more complete social life. An awakening to new possibilities in uniting the efforts of the people in a community for a common purpose has been a frequent result. Experience in this procedure appears to justify its continuance.

## Social Activities in Rural Organizations

Recently widespread emphasis has been placed upon cooperative organization throughout the country. Cooperative organizations up to this time have functioned almost wholly in the realm of the business phases of agriculture, assuming practically no social responsibility.

That cooperation in the business of agriculture is handicapped in a serious way by a neglect of the social aspects of farm life is becoming a widespread belief. Marketing associations have been constantly facing the problem of keeping the good will of their members. Legally binding contracts have been ignored, due largely to a lack of personal contact with a resulting disloyalty. This opens an easy road for the destructive efforts of competing business interests.



In order to overcome some of the difficulties arising from insufficient contacts of their members, a few producers' associations have fostered social activities among the families represented in their organizations. Two associations having notably made this move are the Burley Tobacco Growers' Association and the New York Dairymen's League.

Many kinds of rural organizations exist, and they are coming to realize more and more the importance of a new outlook upon rural social life and are seeking assistance and guidance from rural organization extension specialists. Here lies a great opportunity for valuable service. Contacts for effective work have been made with such organization as the grange, home demonstration clubs, farm women's clubs, boys' and girls' clubs, farmers' union, schools, churches, American Legion, farm bureau, and the different cooperative associations.

In localities where functioning organizations have not been found, new ones have been fostered. Here again it is the aim to stimulate activities in keeping with the needs felt by the people in the community. Attempts are made in such cases to discover a unit community: that is, an area containing a group of people whose needs and desires are common and the satisfaction of which is more likely to come from unified efforts and action.

#### Rural Youth

Although the community programs have dealt largely with adult social relationships, rural social organization workers are conscious of a responsibility for dealing with the social needs of rural youth. It is realized that farm life to the youth is dull where there is little or no chance to participate in social activities. Recreation and entertainment have occupied a position of first importance in the work with rural young people. All indications point to the success of this line of work and its continuance is widely favored. Four-H clubs have offered a good nucleus around which to center social work with rural boys and girls and will no doubt continue to do so.

#### The State Project

There is as yet little uniformity in the manner of executing the rural community organization project in the several States. Variations are in evidence in the arrangements made in the State extension service organizations for promoting the project, in the specific lines of work undertaken, in the plans of work, in the contacts with the local community organizations, and in the kinds of services rendered from the State office. That the work has made progress in all the States except one is obvious. On account of lack of funds for its support the project in one State was reduced to a small amount of relevant survey work. In all the other 15 States the scope has been enlarged each year. This seems to manifest that the work is successfully satisfying a demand in the respective States. In many cases the State specialists have been mindful of the importance of arousing a favorable public opinion with respect to the raising of the standards of living and to the creation of more generous motives in rural social organization.





The rural social and economic conditions are so interdependent that it is only logical to expect that the rural community organization project will function best when correlated and coordinated with the agricultural production and home-making programs. The most effective work in rural social organization can not be hoped for unless close cooperation is maintained between the workers in that field and the extension workers in the distinctly agricultural and home-economics lines. This cooperation will be mutually helpful. A fuller appreciation of the value of rural social organization by the extension workers in the several phases of agriculture and home economics will do much for the development of a complete agricultural and home-economics extension program.

It is well known that the best social conditions can not prevail where there is an inadequate economic return, but the social standards of a community are not always in keeping with the economic returns obtained. The social standards should be the best a community can afford. Rural community organization extension work has already functioned in a large way toward developing a broader concept of living standards. A better understanding and an appreciation of the things that make for comfort and enjoyment in life on the farm will tend to bring about a more balanced distribution of the farm family income when a budget is being made out. There will be less money with which to enter into competition for the acquisition of more land at an unduely increased price.

In practically all the States the specialists have endeavored to stimulate social activities in keeping with the social status of the local community in question. It would be an exceptional community where there could not be found some genuine constructive social assets with which to begin. These are taken advantage of when programs are formulated.

The people in a community may not always be conscious of their social conditions. A general feeling of social unrest may exist without a knowledge of anything specifically lacking. Many communities need a thorough social analysis that will bring to light the social assets and social deficiencies. Here is where the assistance of one skilled in seeing social relationships and making social interpretations is needed to bring the real condition to the foreground. The State specialists may function in this capacity and render a valuable service.

#### Developing a Community Program

In several States the project plans provide for a specific study of the local community. The usual procedure under such plans is a conference of the State specialist, county extension agents, and certain selected citizens of a community to consider the social needs of the respective community and draft up a tentative program in view of the manifest needs. The fundamental factors upon which most programs of this type have been developed are the happiness, health, and success of all the people in the community. The significance of these factors is readily seen. Unhappiness greatly influences health and, on the other hand, the unhealthy can not be happy. Neither the unhappy nor the unhealthy can be the most efficient or the most successful. If an individual is to be most happy in a rural community he must be in generous accord with





the spirit of good fellowship of that community. Many programs have been developed with a cognizance of this fact and provisions have been made for the people of a community to sing together, to play together, and to be entertained together. The State projects up to this time have tended more to the creation of a state of happiness in rural people, leaving the promotion of health and occupational success to be provided for in other extension projects.

The tentative programs which have been drafted in the conference of a small number of people representative of the community, the county extension agents, and the State specialists in most cases are brought before a community meeting to be explained and submitted for approval. Thus the programs are more certain to meet with future active support of all in the community. The variety of social features contained in the many community programs used in the several States may be classed under the following heads:

- (1) Recreation.
- (2) Entertainment.
- (3) Debating.
- (4) Community beautification and sanitation.
- (5) Study outlines of civic questions.

#### The Ultimate Aim

The ultimate aim of rural community organization extension work as it is now conducted is not to train skilled athletes, proficient actors, or public speakers, fine singers or a beautiful community, as it might appear by viewing the emphasis placed on dramatics, games, singing, and community beautification. The end should not be sought in the perfection attained in a particular line. The aim is more fundamental to rural life. Self-expression in recreation and entertainment tends to awaken instincts that may have become dormant in persons living on farms. Games and dramatics when properly conducted inspire rural folk and afford opportunities for those who participate to satisfy an innate desire for self-assertion of the more refined emotional tendencies. The state of mind thus created will help to make life's responsibilities brighter and less difficult. Also community beautification will do a great deal toward developing a greater appreciation of the rural surroundings and a community pride. It is thought that if the proper emotional stimuli are supplied through social activities rural people will put forth greater efforts, become more efficient, and derive more enjoyment from farm life.

#### Work of the Rural Organization Specialist

Community organization extension workers in general encourage communities to be self-reliant with respect to carrying on local programs. Helpful materials of many kinds have been furnished to local communities from the State offices, such as:



Program outlines for meetings, picnics, and local fairs.

Reference material of various kinds.

Plays.

Pageants.

Single copies of plays lent for making selections.

Lists of suggested games.

Lists of suggested songs.

Suggestions on contests.

The State offices have also functioned in rendering the following personal services:

Arranging for and holding leader-training schools and conferences.

Making surveys.

Conducting certain state-wide contests.

Giving lectures.

Conducting camps.

Giving demonstrations.

Aid for erecting and remodeling community buildings.

Coordinating rural community organization activities with the activities promoted by other extension agencies.

The many services rendered by the State specialists seem to have functioned in supplying a demand. Many communities have made a creditable showing in putting on programs in which only local persons participated. Accomplishments in this line have been facilitated by the helps from the State office. The community needs for this sort of help are becoming greater. The State specialists should try to supply these needs. There remains a great deal yet to be done in all the 14 States considered in this report. Some have made more progress than others owing to the fact that the project has been in effect for a longer time. Some have only barely started the project. More appropriate games and other means of recreation need to be supplied. Plays and pageants more adaptable to the rural conditions should be collected and made accessible to communities when selections are being made. Practically all rural communities need consistent urging toward more work in general beautification, especially beautification of the farmstead. The capabilities of the



people in the rural communities should be understood and used as a guide when furnishing plays and games or suggesting other social activities.

Competent local leadership looms up as a requisite of first importance in every State. It is unreasonable to expect enduring progress in the way of local talent program features in recreation and entertainment without responsible local leaders. With this in view many leader-training schools and conferences have been held. A great deal still remains to be done in developing training content for these schools and conferences.

The big responsibility of the rural social organization specialist seems to be that of planning the State project so that it will ultimately function in reaching down into the lives of the people in the country and lead them to a fuller appreciation of the opportunities to live a larger and richer life and consequently acquire a spirit of pride, loyalty, and community helpfulness that will tend to displace any existing feelings of discouragement or prejudice. Thus the way will be opened for more rapid progress in a program for the improvement of agriculture in its many phases.

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